

METRO MEMORIAL PARK

PROJECT NARRATIVE

The District of Columbia Department of General Services and in coordination with the District Council of Arts and Humanities is developing a memorial to honor the victims and first responders of the 2009 Red Line Metro Crash.

The goal of the Memorial Park Project is to honor the remembrance of the nine victims, first respondents and others whose lives were altered by two southbound Metro trains on the Red Line that collided between the Takoma and Fort Totten metro stations, killing 9 and injuring 80 on June 22, 2009; the deadliest accident in the system's history.. The Memorial Park will allow for meditation, remembrance, reflection, hope and renewal for all affected by the tragedy, especially the twelve descendant children of each victim. The park will also serve as a multi-functional, communal space accessible to the neighboring community for diverse usages and should serve as inspiration to the residents of the broader neighborhood and Washington metropolitan area.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Metro Memorial Park will be located at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue, NE and South Dakota Avenue, NE. The current lot is an unkempt, vegetative plot of land. There is significant overgrowth and brush that has not been cared for or maintained. Adjacent to the plot of land is the well-established Blair Community Gardens that has been community supported for many years. Across the street is the Greater Saint Paul's Baptist Church. South Dakota Avenue dead ends about 100ft off the intersection into the community gardens.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The design of the park is composed of three landscaped mounds, from which 9 granite sculptures rise as abstracted human forms. The artwork within the park will be surrounded by native trees and plants. A curved retaining wall will serve as a sound barrier and safety element to protect visitors from the busy traffic along New Hampshire Ave., and will have an inscription referencing the purpose of the memorial and people affected.

Within the park, the commemorative sculptural elements will be made of the locally quarried, Jet Mist granite. A steel rod will be imbedded into a concrete footing within the soil of each mound to secure the stability of the granite stones. Each sculpture is composed of three stacked granite stones, to loosely reference human proportion.

The landscaping that will be used will be native to the Washington DC area. There will be a central grove of trees planted as Sycamore. In addition there will be Horneam trees along the border and dense low shrubbery as ground cover. A bioretention pond is constructed at the back of the property to collect and manage the stormwater on site. Pavers will be placed throughout the site for an attractive hardscape. Illumination of the sculptural elements and the memorial wall have been strategically placed throughout the site. New street landscaping will be constructed on both sides of the street.

At the end of the South Dakota Avenue, there is a proposed gravel pit. The construction of this would be part of Phase II. The existing site where the memorial is being constructed at is currently where the garden community gather sometimes for events. This new gravel area would be a replacement for the area lost. We are still working with the community and the city to work out the details.